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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
THE TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
*Mass.*  
STATE WORKHOUSE

AT BRIDGEWATER,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1881.

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# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT.

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*To His Excellency the Governor, and the Honorable Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

IN conformity with the requirements of the Statutes, the Trustees of the State Workhouse at Bridgewater herewith submit their Twenty-eighth Annual Report.

The year just closed has been a season of special favor as relates to the health and general condition of this institution. With the rising tide of prosperity in all branches of industry, and a demand for labor well-nigh unprecedented, there has been a large reduction in the number committed to this and other institutions, particularly during the past six months. This condition is not likely to continue, as with the approach of winter there is usually a rapid increase in numbers.

There have been some very substantial improvements added to the establishment the past year.

The large fire-pump, with a brick building, with reservoir, pipes, and hydrants, meets a want that had long been felt. This was provided by a special appropriation of the Legislature of 1880. The driveways and walks have been concreted, and the buildings have been thoroughly painted. The farm, of over two hundred acres, is well cultivated, and the products show good management. The hay crop the past season was about two hundred tons, and the general crop of vegetables such as meet the wants of the institution. The fine herd of milch cows are an important contribution in the products of the dairy. The labor of the farm, which is performed by inmates under the supervision of officers, is unquestionably an employment not only conducive to the

health of this class, but more favorable to their reform than a more confined occupation. With the general reduction in numbers of inmates, the number employed in the chair-seating shop has been proportionately reduced, and the receipts from this source considerably lessened.

In former reports there have been frequent allusions to the desirability of a more thorough classification in this and similar institutions. Grave difficulties have interposed, and this much-desired end has never been fully realized.

The courts have most to do with this matter as relates to criminal classes, and so long as there is no discrimination in sentencing, so long will all shades of criminals be found in our institutions. Drunkenness is the prime cause that brings the largest number to the workhouse and the houses of correction. The law should be so framed as to fix the length of sentence, instead of leaving it to the discretion of the courts. As at present administered, the penalties for the same offence, under precisely the same circumstances, vary from six months to two years. This is clearly unwise and unjust. Reform should ever be kept in view in an institution of this kind, and to that end short sentences should be discarded, except for the first or second offence. In ordinary cases, for old offenders, long sentences afford the only reasonable hope of reform; the State Board of Health and Charity having authority to pardon in all cases where deemed justifiable and expedient. In our various penal institutions there are large numbers of what may be termed the better class of criminals indiscriminately mingling with the most hardened and corrupt prisoners. Could the better class of men be transferred to the workhouse, surrounded by better influences, and with larger liberty than is possible in the common prison, we might hope for good results. Should there be no change in the policy in regard to commitments of a special class of men to this institution, it would seem clearly advisable to increase the number of women, limiting them to two classes, one of which could do some service in the department of labor to which they are specially adapted. This would not increase the expense of supervision in the female department, and would be a saving of expense, while they would be in charge of a matron who has no superior for the management of women.

In the management and classification of the inmates of our public institutions, occasional meetings of the different boards for conference would be of special value. The Superintendent's report, herewith submitted, furnishes a more particular statement of the products of the farm, the number of inmates, and the financial condition of the institution. The religious services of the chapel, and the moral influence that pervades the institution, encourages the belief that some may be led in the way of a better life. The chapel services are in charge of Rev. Joseph Jenks, whose report is also submitted, together with the report of the Physician, Dr. Edward Sawyer. Rev. John Conlon, of the Catholic church, frequently visits the institution, ministering to those of that religious faith.

The general condition of the institution in all its departments was never so good as at the present time. Of its management it is sufficient to say that Capt. N. Leonard and wife are still devoting their best energies to its welfare, aided by the efficient assistant-superintendent and subordinate officers, all of whom seem to have discharged their duties with marked fidelity.

JOSHUA E. CRANE,  
J. WHITE BELCHER,  
CATHERINE P. LOTHROP,  
ANNIE FIELDS,

*Trustees of State Workhouse*

STATE WORKHOUSE, BRIDGDWATER,  
SEPT. 30, 1881.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

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*To the Trustees of the State Workhouse.*

THE Report of this institution for the year ending Sept. 30, 1881, is respectfully submitted.

The whole number of inmates remaining Oct. 1, 1880, was .	158
To wit, Male prisoners . . . . .	110
Female prisoners . . . . .	30
State paupers . . . . .	11
Discharged prisoners wishing to stay . . . . .	7
Total . . . . .	158

The whole number of admissions from Oct. 1, 1880, to Oct. 1, 1881, was . . . . .	446
Male prisoners . . . . .	165
Female prisoners . . . . .	22
State paupers . . . . .	250
Discharged prisoners wishing to remain . . . . .	9
Total . . . . .	446

The whole number supported in the institution during the year was . . . . .	604
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The whole number discharged from Oct. 1, 1880, to Oct. 1, 1881, was . . . . .	475
To wit, Male prisoners . . . . .	188
Female prisoners . . . . .	34
State paupers . . . . .	233
Prisoners remaining over . . . . .	8
Deaths of all classes . . . . .	12
Total . . . . .	475

Whole number remaining Oct. 1, 1881 . . . . .	129
Male prisoners . . . . .	84
Female prisoners . . . . .	18
State paupers . . . . .	20
Discharged prisoners wishing to stay . . . . .	7
Total . . . . .	129

Average number for the year . . . . .	228 $\frac{38}{58}$
Largest number for the year . . . . .	403
Smallest number for the year . . . . .	124

The expenditures and receipts for the year just closed have been as follows:—

From Oct. 1, 1880, to Jan. 1, 1881 . . . . .	\$14,233 17
Received from Treasurer for same period . . . . .	14,233 17
From Jan. 1, 1881, to Oct. 1, 1881 . . . . .	24,213 45
Received from Treasurer for same period . . . . .	24,213 45
The appropriation for 1880 was . . . . .	40,000 00
Amount expended . . . . .	37,313 70
Leaving an unexpended balance, which reverted to the treasury, of . . . . .	2,686 30
The appropriation for current expenses for 1881 was . . . . .	\$40,000 00
The amount already expended is . . . . .	24,213 45
Leaving an unexpended balance of . . . . .	15,786 55

The Legislature, by the Resolve approved March 31, 1880, made a special appropriation in behalf of the State Work-house for better protection against fire.

The amount of the appropriation was \$8,500, the same to be expended under the direction of the Trustees, and subject to the approval of the Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity.

The amount expended for the purposes specified in the Resolve was, as I am informed, \$8,483.71, leaving an unexpended balance of \$16.29. During the year there has been received for labor, products, etc., \$1,499.35. The Superintendent of Indoor Poor has received, for the support of inmates, \$4,613.65.

The total current and extraordinary expenses for the year have been as follows, to wit:—

Expenses of Trustees . . . . .	\$191 70
Expenses of Physician and Consulting Physician . . . . .	550 00
Expenses of Chaplain . . . . .	300 00
Salaries of resident officers . . . . .	8,146 51
Sundry incidental labor . . . . .	379 25
Dry-goods, bedding, and furniture . . . . .	974 85
Tea, coffee, and chocolate . . . . .	1,075 15
Leather, shoes, and findings . . . . .	514 39
Transportation of merchandise and inmates . . . . .	541 43
<i>Amount carried forward . . . . .</i>	<u>\$12,673 28</u>

<i>Amount brought forward</i>	\$12,673 28
Blacksmith and carriage work	91 59
Cutlery, tin, crockery, and hardware	435 77
Baskets, brooms, brushes, etc.	72 50
Soap and materials	150 49
Hops, salt, malt, vinegar, and pepper	30 02
Lights, glass, etc.	322 60
Medicine, hospital supplies, disinfectants, etc.	579 70
Seed and farm tools	594 12
Stationery, blank-books, postage, and newspapers	99 37
Clothing	1,625 65
Tobacco, snuff, and pipes	506 01
Painting and materials	241 25
Lime, cement, hair, drain-pipes, brick, etc.	49 93
Repairs and findings on sewing-machines	159 24
Ordinary repairs	120 67
Miscellaneous small goods	32 25
Hay and straw for beds	218 05
Meal, corn, and feed	1,239 80
417 tons of coal	2,594 12
28 barrels of flour	229 90
10 barrels of sweet potatoes	30 87
85 barrels of corned beef	920 56
1,902 gallons of molasses	765 38
23,872 pounds of fresh meat	1,102 18
6,720 pounds of fish	309 63
3,860 pounds of sugar	370 25
331 pounds of butter	134 58
354 pounds of cheese	47 30
2,649 pounds of rice	171 63
Fruit, raisins, vegetables, etc.	156 26
Mustard, spice, cream of tartar, starch, etc.	37 95
64½ barrels of beans	154 97
Fertilizers	895 75
Lumber and other materials, and labor on new sheds, etc.	853 31
Concreting	627 80
Nails, butts, locks, screws, wire-cloth, etc.	4 35
Live stock	275 00
Lumber, labor, and materials on conservatory	641 20
Returning eloped prisoners	25 00
Taking inventory and appraisal of property	100 00
Cranberries	6 00
Carryalls for inmates' dormitories	140 00
Oysters, hulled corn, clams, and lobsters	135 49
White bread for inmates	5,096 45
Harness	53 50
Pump, boiler, and extension of pump-house	1,265 00
<i>Amount carried forward</i>	\$36,386 72



<i>Amount brought forward</i>	\$36,386 72
Gas-machine and fittings	743 03
Stand-pipes and fittings in court	650 00
Repairs on house, barn, workshop, piggery, etc.	438 00
Hose-pipes	26 00
Printing rules and regulations for institution	23 30
Double sleigh	48 00
Steam-whistle and fittings	82 53
Fuel for quick-steaming boiler	24 48
House-paper	24 56
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	\$38,446 62

It will be seen that the foregoing statement comprises items which properly come under the head of extraordinary expenses; and in the financial report made to the Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity, these items have received a different classification.

The extension of the old pump-house at the spring; the purchase of a new patent steam-pump and tubular boiler, for the purpose of pumping water into the reservoirs located near the new fire-pump house; the concreting in the court and front yard, rendered necessary in part by the excavations made through the grounds when the water-pipes and hydrants were put in; the stand-pipes erected in the court with a view of completing and perfecting the arrangements made for protection against fire; the introduction of gas into the main house; the conservatory; the new sheds for coal, etc., are among the extraordinary expenses of the past year, amounting to the sum of \$4,888.87.

Deducting this amount from the total expenditures, leaves \$33,557.75 which properly belongs under the head of Ordinary Current Expenses.

Dividing this amount by the average number of inmates gives an average annual cost of \$146.72, equivalent to an average weekly cost of \$2.82.

It is well known that the expenses of an institution do not diminish in the same ratio that its numbers decrease. Had our average been thrice as great as it is, the cost per inmate would have been much less than now.

Last winter, when the influx of inmates was comparatively large, and when our numbers exceeded 400, the expenses (excepting in a few particulars) were but a trifle greater

than during the summer, when the numbers went down to 150.

The hospitals, the kitchens, the laundries, the workshops, and the farm must be kept running, and officers must be employed to take charge of the different departments, whether they are full or not.

If our low average during the past year is the result of a decrease in crime, it is cause for much gratification.

The operation of the tramp-law, and the activity in all branches of business, may explain to some extent the depleted condition of this and similar institutions.

The tramps, however, are not all at work, nor are the criminals all reformed.

Undoubtedly correctional institutions will continue to be a necessity for many years to come.

But it would seem that the time has now arrived when suggestions in regard to the future of this institution will be pertinent, and that some changes should be recommended with a view of rendering it more useful and efficient than it is at present. I know that this subject is already receiving the thoughtful consideration of the Trustees, and I only wish to suggest, that, while contemplating important changes, it should be kept in mind that these buildings were originally designed, and for many years were used, for a State pauper establishment, and are therefore not properly constructed for the detention of violent and desperate criminals; that the buildings are nearly all of wood, but yet sufficiently strong and well adapted for the milder classes of criminals; and that we have a large and valuable farm, which for eight or nine months of the year would furnish healthful employment to any class of inmates not requiring a great degree of restraint.

An inventory and appraisal of the real and personal property on hand Oct. 1, 1881, were made by Hon. Lloyd Parsons and Joshua E. Crane.

The appraisal was as follows:—

Live-stock . . . . .	\$4,722 25
Products of the farm . . . . .	10,104 87
Carriages and agricultural implements . . . . .	3,556 15
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<i>Amount carried forward . . . . .</i>	<i>\$18,383 27</i>

<i>Amount brought forward</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$18,383	27
Mechanical tools and machinery	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19,205	00
Beds and bedding	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5,958	50
Other furniture and property	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5,397	01
Personal property in Superintendent's department	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,156	20
Ready-made clothing	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,113	59
Dry-goods	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	424	09
Provisions and groceries	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	651	85
Fuel	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	612	50
Library	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	600	00
Drugs and medicines	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	214	00
Total personal property									\$57,716	01
Building									\$132,186	00
Land									23,900	00
Total real estate									\$156,086	00
Total personal and real estate									213,802	00
Cash on hand — none.										
Bills payable and receivable — none.										

Respectfully submitted,

N. LEONARD,

*Superintendent.*

*Schedule of Persons employed during the Year.*

NAME.	Nature of Service.	Duration of Service.	Com pensation
		Months.	
Edward Sawyer . . . .	Physician . . . . .	12	\$450 00
Calvin Pratt . . . . .	Consulting Physician . .	12	100 00
Joseph Jenks . . . . .	Chaplain . . . . .	12	300 00
N. Leonard . . . . .	Superintendent . . . . .	12	1,800 00
T. J. Cannon . . . . .	Assistant Supt. . . . .	12	800 00
L. Keene . . . . .	Engineer . . . . .	12	600 00
B. F. Robinson . . . . .	Overseer of Chair-shop,	12	480 00
J. Robinson, jun. . . . .	Chief Watchman . . . .	12	480 00
Daniel Leary . . . . .	Assistant Watchman . .	12	300 00
William Gillispie . . . .	Head Farmer . . . . .	12	580 00
John Gillispie . . . . .	Assistant Farmer . . . .	12	480 00
George H. Cannon . . . .	Overs'r of Cook Kitchen	11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	460 00
Francis Jenkins . . . . .	Hospital Steward . . . .	11 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	391 67
William B. Day . . . . .	Assistant Farmer . . . .	9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	308 33
M. Bowman . . . . .	Overseer of Laundry . .	5 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> <sup>5</sup> / <sub>0</sub>	234 00
Nelson Wilbur . . . . .	Assistant in Kitchen . .	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	117 85
Sumner Keith . . . . .	Assistant Farmer . . . .	4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	158 33
Mrs. P. J. Leonard . . . .	Chief Matron . . . . .	12	350 00
Mrs. M. E. Gilman . . . .	Assistant Matron . . . .	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> <sup>1</sup> / <sub>0</sub>	158 50
Mrs. L. J. Robinson . . . .	Assistant Matron . . . .	11 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> <sup>7</sup> / <sub>1</sub>	257 83
Miss H. P. Packard . . . .	Assistant Matron . . . .	8 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> <sup>1</sup> / <sub>1</sub>	190 00
			\$8,996 51



## HOSPITAL REPORT.

*To the Trustees of the State Workhouse at Bridgewater.*

THE Twenty-eighth Annual Hospital Report is respectfully submitted:—

## SUMMARY.

Number of admissions . . . . .	234
discharged . . . . .	227
of deaths . . . . .	12
remaining . . . . .	10

The health of the institution has been good for the past year; we have escaped any severe contagion and the consequent ill effects attendant upon it. By referring to the annexed tables it will be seen that the greater number of admissions to the hospital occurred during the winter months, and most of the deaths are to be found in the same time.

Five children have been born during the year, including one pair of twins, all of whom are illegitimate; two of the mothers are of Irish and two of American parentage.

For further particulars you are respectfully referred to the accompanying tables.

The cleanliness and order of the institution is too well known to require comment from me. This, together with the uniform courtesy and assistance of the superintendent, matron, and officers of the institution, have aided greatly in the discharge of my official duties, and are thankfully acknowledged.

I remain yours truly,

EDWARD SAWYER, M.D.,  
*Physician.*



TABLE No. 1.

*Showing the Number of Cases of Sickness in the State Workhouse at Bridgewater from Oct. 1, 1880, to Sept. 30, 1881, with the Number for each Month, and the Names of the Principal Diseases; also the Average Number on the Sick List for the Year, and for each Month.*

DISEASES.	TOTALS.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.
Debility . . . . .	11	1	2	5	1	—	2	—	5	2	1	1	—
Febrile . . . . .	11	1	2	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Heart-disease . . . . .	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	2
Parturition . . . . .	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Rheumatism . . . . .	36	2	3	—	9	4	5	8	4	—	1	—	—
Other diseases . . . . .	57	—	3	6	7	19	6	6	9	1	—	—	—
<i>Of Alimentary Canal.</i>													
Choleraic . . . . .	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Gastric . . . . .	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hepatic . . . . .	10	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	4	1	—	—	—
Other diseases . . . . .	6	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
<i>Of Nervous Centres.</i>													
Alcoholismus . . . . .	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Epilepsy . . . . .	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neuralgia . . . . .	16	3	2	3	1	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Paralysis . . . . .	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases . . . . .	14	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	8	—	1	1	—

TABLE No. 1 — Concluded.

DISEASES.	TOTALS.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.
<i>Of Respiratory Organs.</i>													
Bronchitis . . . . .	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Consumption . . . . .	6	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases . . . . .	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Of the Skin.</i>													
Erysipelas . . . . .	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Urticaria . . . . .	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Surgical Diseases.</i>													
Abscesses . . . . .	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ulcers . . . . .	8	-	1	2	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Venereal . . . . .	9	2	1	-	2	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other diseases . . . . .	19	1	-	5	3	3	1	-	1	2	-	2	1
Totals . . . . .	234	14	15	27	31	39	23	21	37	8	9	4	6
Average number on the sick-list . . . . .	21	13	21	18	26	37	38	19	26	18	18	12	11



CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

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*To the Board of Trustees State Workhouse.*

THE undersigned would respectfully present his Annual Report. During the past year services have been held in the chapel on Sunday, and at other times when called for. In the first half of the year the institution was so filled with male inmates, that services were held in the chapel and in one of the lower rooms, the Chaplain at both, on the same Sunday. In the last half of the year, the number of inmates having decreased largely, service was held in the chapel only.

If it were a fact that the number of criminals in the State had decreased, it would be a subject of congratulation to note the decrease in the number of our inmates. As it is very probable that the causes which have filled the workhouse in the past are not removed, we must expect that the winter will fill up our wards. And if these persons do not come to us they will be a charge somewhere else. Permit me to suggest that as we have an excellent location, a fertile farm, and experienced officers, it would seem as if our opportunity for the reform of certain classes of criminals would be still greater were the system of graded prisons in use in the Commonwealth. I need not enter into the details of advantage possessed by the system which separates the experienced criminal from those passing through their first sentence. Your own philanthropy and extensive knowledge have made you acquainted with the broader views of reformatory discipline which have been accepted of late years, and cannot have failed to impress you with the great facilities we enjoy for the reformation of less confirmed offenders. I sincerely think we can do a great deal in this work. The mingling of old and young criminals must be a source of contamination to the less reprobate. We should have longer sentences, in order to influence more fully the characters of the inmates, and carry



out the gospel idea of seeking and saving the lost. How difficult it is to make the criminal understand this motive. Yet, I do believe that our endeavors are not in vain, and that we do see some results in fulfilment of the precious promise that God will bless His gospel to the salvation of souls. The system of classifying criminals, I cannot but think, is the right way to help them to restore their self-respect, to make them feel that they are not utterly abandoned. We do this now so far as we can. We plead with them for their soul's sake. We endeavor to show them the mercy and love of God: that in Him only can man find pardon and grace. But when the hardened sinner may contaminate the more innocent, it makes the work of reformation harder than it need be. We do prevent a great deal of crime by our charities; we do reform; we do save a great many, and yet there is still great need of a care for individual cases. Jesus did not save men as "masses," but as individuals, and so must we apply His gospel. We should have the number at any one prison large enough to be economical, but not too large so as to forget their individuality. It is an important question as to economy, but we must look also at the expense the discharged convict will make for the community in the future. It is the best economy so to effect his reform and educate him that he may be a good citizen. Deprivation of liberty is, to almost every man, by itself a punishment, with prison rules and prison fare.

We want to have all our efforts tend toward the one object of restoring to the community a citizen who will be no more expense to it, because he has been taught a more excellent way. To this object all else is subordinate. If we can do it by teaching our criminals a trade; by keeping them from evil associations till mental and physical habits have changed; by separating classes of criminals; by gospel influences, we shall succeed in being faithful servants of the people and of God.

JOSEPH JENKS.

